

# American Literature Choice Book Assignment

Select and get approval of your book **by Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**

- Read book by Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Turn in annotated text and be ready to give your presentation on Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>.
- All books are available in the media center or you can purchase your own copy at a used bookstore or online. Some are available as free etext online.

## What to read? Choose an appropriate text:

Choose a valuable work of fiction or nonfiction to read with a purpose. Such a purpose requires your chosen literary text to connect with American ideals while revealing the values of American society. Your selection should reveal an understanding of the history and cultural progress of our country through literature conveying the perceptions and experiences of American authors. Thus, this criterion should guide you in your choice, analysis, and discussion of the literary work. All of the books recommended for your reading meet the requirements. You will need to find a copy of the book for reading and annotations.

1. *Into the Wild* by John Krakauer
2. *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne
3. *A Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* by Frederick Douglass
4. *Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier
5. *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett
6. *Fast Food Nation* by Eric Schlosser
7. *The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell
8. *Half Broke Horses* by Jeannette Walls
9. *Nickel and Dime* by Barbara Ehrenreich

If you choose another book other than the recommended texts, you must make sure your book is:

*An honors level 11th grade text, written by an American author, and appeals to your experience, interests, passions, and view of America.*

From Ernest Hemingway to Barbara Kingsolver, John Irving to Ray Bradbury to Amy Tan to Ralph Ellison to Alice Walker to John Grisham, American authors explore the nature of American identity through incredible novels and biographies. Here are a few resources and guidelines to help you find the perfect book for you:

- A book that you have not previously read
- Minimum of 100 pages
- Appropriate grade level
- No movie version of your book choice
- You may want to review the subject matter closely before selecting your text. Thus, parents are encouraged to discuss book choices with their children.
- If you are unhappy with your choice, feel free to make another selection for preapproval.
- Ask your teachers, ask a librarian, or use these sites to help you find a book:
- <http://www.readliterature.com/american.htm>
- <http://www.bcps.org/offices/lis/models/amwriters/writers.htm>
- [http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/2413.100\\_Best\\_American\\_Authors](http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/2413.100_Best_American_Authors)

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Book title \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher approval \_\_\_\_\_

Parent approval \_\_\_\_\_